

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 06182 130806Z

20

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 OES-06 OMB-01 AID-05 NSC-05 INT-05 COME-00

FEA-01 ACDA-07 AGR-05 /075 W  
----- 084196

R 130735Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5844

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6182

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, SA

SUBJECT: CANCELLATION OF DESALTING PROJECTS

REF STATE 222944

1. INFO REFTEL APPRECIATED. WE HAVE PICKED UP SOME ADDI-  
TIONAL INFORMATION.

2. RELIABLE GOVERNMENT SOURCE HERE INDICATES THAT THERE IS  
A POWER STRUGGLE TO CONTROL THE BILLION DOLLAR DESALTING  
PROJECTS BETWEEN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN FEISAL AND DR. ABDUL  
RAHMAN IBN ABDUL AZIZ IBN HASSAN AL SHEIKH, MINISTER OF  
AGRICULTURE AND WATER. ALLEGEDLY, BUDGETARY SUPPORT FOR  
SWCC WAS WITHHELD PREVENTING AWARD OF CONTRACTS TENDERED  
EARLIER, BIDS FOR WHICH WERE DUE TO BE AWARDED IN AUGUST.  
ON THE ALLEGATION THAT PRINCE MOHAMMED'S SWCC PROJECTS WERE  
OUTPACING DEVELOPMENT, A COMMITTEE OF MINISTERS (COMPOSI-  
TION NOT CLARIFIED) VOTED AGAINST PRINCE MOHAMMED'S  
RECOMMENDATION TO ISSUE ALL THE TENDERS AS SOON AS  
POSSIBLE. OUR INFORMANT STATES THAT IN FIT OF PIQUE,  
PRINCE MOHAMMED HIMSELF CANCELLED THE CURRENT PROJECTS  
TO DRAW ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEM FOR THE REPERCUS-  
SIONS BOUND TO FOLLOW.

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 06182 130806Z

3. NAT KEARN WAS RECENTLY IN JIDDA (HENRY KEARN'S

SON) AND GOT INDICATION OF WHAT WAS TO HAPPEN FROM  
PRINCE MOHAMMED.

4. CURRENT BELIEF IS THAT THE CANCELLATION DECISION WILL  
BE REVERSED AND THAT SAUDI CIRCLES SEEKING RIGHT FORMAT  
TO DO THIS AND MAKE IT LOOK ACCEPTABLE FROM PUBLIC RE-  
LATIONS VIEWPOINT. THERE IS ALSO SPECULATION THAT  
OTHERS IN SAG MINISTERIAL CIRCLE DESIRE TO GET PIECE  
OF THE ACTION FROM THE MULTIBILLION DOLLAR PROJECTS.  
PORTER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DESALINATION, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS), POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 13 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** blochd0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976JIDDA06182  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760344-0517  
**From:** JIDDA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760968/aaaacfqy.tel  
**Line Count:** 71  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 222944  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** blochd0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
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EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CANCELLATION OF DESALTING PROJECTS  
**TAGS:** EIND, SA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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